

MUNICIPAL
LIBRARY

PAUL BEAUCHIE DELLE GLADE



PAUL BEAUCHIE
DELLE GLADE
LIBRARY

Dedicated to
Mrs Frances Ball
Member of the Board and Friend of the Library
since 1935

History of Belle Glade Municipal Library

1927-1967

The history of Belle Glade Municipal Library is to be found for the most part in a study of events, projects, and developments which have occurred during the past forty years. Unlike most historians who look for material in the dusty annals of parchment, this search for a knowledgeable history has been restricted to original sources, and for the most part, living sources.

Often one source does not agree with another, but in all such instances what has appeared to be the most reliable information has been used.

A predominant factor in the early history of the library was the work of many progressive, civic minded residents of this area. Although few in numbers, these people worked hard and steadily to help promote a free public library. This attitude, prevalent in 1927, is still very much in evidence in 1967 and reflects the cultural growths of the community which at one time was considered as a "last frontier" and inaccessible to the average traveler.

Undaunted by hurricanes, floods, and freezes, residents of Belle Glade consider these "acts of nature" as just more interruptions which have not deterred them from reaching a goal namely, a free public library.

A start on the library, small as it was, came about in 1926 or 1927 only a short time before the destruction

hurricane. A Colonel Harbeon, engaged in farming here, donated a bookcase filled with books (exact number not known) which was installed in the Reidel Hotel. Most of these volumes were destroyed during the 1928 hurricane, but the bookcase was saved. One might remember the song so popular in that era, "The Song is Ended, But the Melody Lingers On"..... in this instance the bookcase which is still in existence.

Following the hurricane, the bookcase filled with donated books, was set up in an army tent furnished by the American Red Cross for use by residents as a Recreation Center. In 1929 the Greater Palm Beach Athletic Club raised money to furnish "Books for Juveniles". It was also during this same year that through the efforts of Mrs. Virgil Chandler, 500 elementary level books were placed in the centers. All of these books were circulated among residents of the area and records kept.

In 1929, following completion of the city hall, the city fathers authorized the use of a small room off the main floor for setting up a library. The Woman's Club was asked to assume the responsibility of all books, and to take charge of cataloguing for circulation to residents of towns around the lake including Belle Glade, South Bay, Lakeview and Canal Point. Mrs. J. F. (Etta) Brownes graciously consented to take charge of this project and was assisted by ladies from the adjoining towns in repairing and classifying the books, numbering 500. Among the many helpers who worked tirelessly were Mrs. Adrienne Daems and Mrs. Thomas Brugger from Everglades Experiment Station and Mrs. L. J. Barstow of South Bay.

In 1932 and 1933 the Woman's Club and Garden Club

decided that a worthwhile project would be to erect a small civic building in the city park, now known as McDonald Park. During the fall of 1933 all the books now totaling 800, were transferred to the Woman's Club Building. Again the ladies of the community spent many hours in mending, classifying, and shelving these volumes. As a further incentive toward the promotion of better reading, the Woman's Club as a body voted to join the Book of the Month Club, thus being assured of at least one new and unused book for placement on the library shelf each month.

Mrs Brown was retained as city librarian in 1935 and kept the library open four hours each week. Later, with additional financial assistance from the city, the library stayed open longer.

The WPA entered the picture in 1942 and paid a librarian to keep the library open for thirty hours each week. When the WPA was discontinued, the Woman's Club offered the library and its contents consisting of 3000 volumes to the City of Belle Glade as a gift. The city agreed to accept the offer and assume the responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the library. This was another step toward a free public library which is one of the vital needs of every community.

During the intervening years members of the Library Board worked constantly toward adding more and more reading materials for adults and youths of this area. Mrs Brown was retained as librarian until 1948 at which time she retired.

In 1948 Mrs. Bettie Harris the present librarian was employed by the city. Her services during the past years

have been excellent and greatly appreciated by all subscribers to our library. She has a vast knowledge of the work she so dearly loves and has always remained her same sweet self regardless of the many adversities she has encountered.

In 1958 the city appropriated five thousand dollars to be used for renovations of a building at 100 West Canal Street. Again the library and its contents were moved to this location.

Now in this year of 1967 more than twelve thousand volumes have been moved and classified, catalogued and shelved into our new eighty thousand dollar building in the city park.

Donors to the Municipal Library Fund Drive

Agricultural Insecticide Co., Inc.
Paramonte, Jacinto
Alvarez, Ibrahim
Albury, Leandro
Alman, Armando
Alman, L.
Allison, Dr. and Mrs. R. H.
Alonso, Guillermo
Altman Mr. and Mrs. J. W.
Alvaro, Francisco
Alvarez, Jose P.
Alvarez Tony
Amerine, Leonor
Anderson's Gulf Service Stations
Ange, Tony
Arceau, Antonio
Atlas Chemicals of Florida, Inc.

Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. Jean F.
Baig, Fabian O.
Baig, Rafael
Baker, Mr. and Mrs. John E.
Baker, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas
Ball, Mrs. and Mrs. James L. Jr.
Bamford, Mrs. and Mrs. W. C.
Bank of Belle Glade
Bank of Lakota

Bartangui, Jorge L.
Bastista, Martha
Battle, Mr. and Mrs. Warren
Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne
Beardsley, Dr. and Mrs. D. W.
Becerra, Rolando
Beck, Mrs. Ruth V.
Belle Glade Beauty Salon
Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
In Memory of Mrs. Margaret J. Baker
Belle Glade Cusitan Club
Belle Glade Elementary School Faculty
Belle Glade Gators 4-H Club
Belle Glade Herald
Belle Glade High School Faculty
Belle Glade Ladies Golf Association
Belle Glade Machine Works, Inc.
Belle Glade Rotary Club
Belle Glade Truck Broker
Bello, Jose
Berry Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Lee
Beta XI Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Betzner's Radio and T.V.
Biff-Burger
Big B Ranch
Blanchard, A. Jr.
Blanchard, Carlos
Blanton and Umwinski Inc.

Bolanos, Engelberto
Brogger, Mrs. Thomas and family
In memory of Dr. Thomas Brogger
Brown, Carroll
Buey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W.
Burdinis, Dr. and Mrs. Howard
Burdinis

Calins Cleaners
Cammann, J.
Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Milton
Carreno, M.
Cartaya, Arturo
Carters Electric
Cassino, Joe L.
Casselman, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon
Castro, Armando
Caters, J. Furniture Company
Chamblee Farms, Inc.
Chapman, Kermit and Sons
Chiquita Grocery
Close, Mr. and Mrs. Norman
Custers Farms, Inc.
Community Methodist Church
Kindergarden
Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Cully
Collins, Mrs. Kittie
Cone, Mr. and Mrs. Chester R.

Cornells Hardware
Cornell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jr.
Creech, Dr. and Mrs. L. F.
Crosski, Sarah
Cutchfield, Electrics
Cruz, Jorge Santos
Cub Scouts Den No 5, Pack 622
Cuba, Daniel
Curbello, Humberto
Cuimano, Jose'
Cycle and House Centers

D'Arrigo, Enriquie
Daddy Dicks
D'Arrigo Bros. Co. of Mass.
Darees Palm Beach Shop
De Grau, Mr. and Mrs. A. B.
DeWitt, L. L. Brokerage Co.
Dominquez, Oscar
Doolay, Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Double D Ranch
Dumas, Roberto
P. Duda and Sons Cooperative Association

Earmans, Dr. J. L.
Enshavei, Emilio
Equizabal, Arturo
Alberta Crate Company
Elite Community Club

Espanyares, Armando
Everglades Experiment Station - its
Staff and Employees
Everglades Farm Equipment Co.
Everglades Federal Savings and Loan
Associations
Everglades Life Underwriters Association
Everglades Petroleum Company

Faulk, J. L., Inc.
Felling, Mr. and Mrs. Urbans - In memory
of Mrs. Margaret I. Baker
Feria, Ralph
First Baptist Church Kindergarten
Flieker, Dr. and Mrs. A. D.
Flitner, Edith
Florida First National Bank
Florida Power and Light Company
Florida Sugar Corporation
Floyd, Mrs. and Mrs. Yates
Forrest, Mrs. Jessie
Forsee, Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Jr.
Frandslund, Mrs. J. J.
Fri-eddy's Boy Lunch
Fulmerwiders, Mr. and Mrs. Ed., Jr.
Fulmerwiders, Katherine

Garcia, Jose' J.
Garcia, Silvio

Gators Feed Company
Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Harold
Lion Scout Troop, No. 41
Glades Drug Stores
Glades Equipment Company
Glades Gas Company
Glades Laundry and Dry Cleaners
Glades Roofing Company
Gutias, Emilio
Lomej, Ramon
Graham Coastal Motors
Goose Elementary Faculty
Gray, Dr. and Mrs. James R.
Greeningers and Sons, Inc.
Guerrero, Dr. and Mrs. Luis
Hugman, Dr. and Mrs. H. L.

Hand, Mr. and Mrs. Homer J.
Halbrook Hardware
Harries, Mrs. Bethie
Hernandez, Alberto
Holliday, Mrs.
Holt, Mr. and Mrs. R. L.
Hoeks Radio and T.V. Service
Hoekens, Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Humphrey's Seafood

Iglesias, Jorge
Iota Epsilon Chapter of Beta
Sigma Phi

Iparaguirel, José

Jackson, Fred L.

Jacksons, Mrs. Rebbie Mae

January, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer

Jasper, Eva

Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. Eddie

Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. P.

Junior Women's Club of Belle Glade

Kempes, Mrs. Lillian

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Kiddell, Dr. and Mrs. C. W.

Kinlaw, Mr. and Mrs. John

Kirkman, Francis, Florist

Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Sam N., Jr.

Koch, Gladis

La Chance, Mrs. F. J.

Lake Shore Growers Co-op

Larrando, José

Latin Grocer

Lee, Mrs. and Mrs. Robert

Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Library Board Municipal Library

Lima, Elsa

Lima, Rafael

Llewellyn, Dr. and Mrs. Paul W.

Lloret, José

Lord, W. C.

Lozell, Mrs. Sam

Loyola, Ramon

Lucas, Dr. and Mrs. Mendel

Lundy, Darlene

Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. W. K.

Manatee Plantations, Inc.

Marini, Blas

Marotta, Mrs. Ralph J.

Mathers of Belle Glade, Inc.

Mathausse, Mr. and Mrs. Robert

Martins, Victor

McArthur Jersey Farms Dairy, Inc.

McDaniels, Mr. and Mrs. E. B.

McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Gerold

Mendez, Enrique

Miller, Mr. and Mrs. William J., Jr.

Miranda, Rodolfo

Molina, E. J.

Molina, Ezra

Mollo, Nancy Lott

Montalvo, Eduardo

Montes, Amíbal

Montes, Lilia

Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Francis

Morales, Roseline

Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Tellon

Moya, José

Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. J. S.

Nance, Mary

Navarro, Nestor

Nordelo, Rosalia

Omicron Chapter of Sigma Tau
Sorority

Ormeat, Mr.

Order Eastern Star Belle Glade
No. 197

Perezigo, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph L.

Reuna, José A.

Salme Club

Parsons, Mrs. L. P.

Sacalodos, Omar

Sacalodos, Rosaldo

Serrina, José

Sereg, Julio C.

Sereg, Cirilo

Siles, Mr. and Mrs. J. A.

Lioness Growers Cooperative

Solis, M. G.

Portuondo, Manuel

Pestoni, Mr. and Mrs. Richard

Prices, Mrs. Katherine

Puckett, Mr. and Mrs. Lee

Quaker Oats Company

R and B Properties, Inc.

Raines, Hector

Ramirez, Paul

Raeley's Jewelers
Recio, Angelia
Reyes, Miguel
Reynaldos, Carlos
Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. William B.
Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin
Richmond Plumbing Company
Linkers Materials Corporation
Ruenda, Joaquin
Robinson, Martha
Rodriguez, Jose
Rodriguez, L.
Roemers Construction Company
Royals Department Store
Royal Palm Liquors
Royals, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. - In
memory of E. M. Lively
Rubiales, Sixto
Russell, B. A. C., Inc.

Saint Philip Peters Society
Sanchez, Alvaro
Sanchez, Antonio
Sanchez, Eduardo
Sanchez, Virgilio
Santamarial, H. O.
Sayres Ranch
Scarborough, Mr. and Mrs. George
Scoggins, Mrs. Jean Stewart
Scruggs, Mr. and Mrs. Sam, Jr.

Seminole Supply Company, Inc.
Senter, Sam
Sewing Machine Centers
Shashen's Cleaning Clinic
Shashen, Mr. and Mrs. Melville
Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. Richard E.
Sigman, Dr. N. D.
Silvers, Drs. and Mrs. James A.
Sedlzer, J.
Soto, Dr. and Mrs. Manuel
Sotolongo, Enrique
Sotolongo, F.
South Bay Growers, Inc.
Southernmost Doctor's and Sprayers
Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co.
State Farm Insurance
Stein, Mrs. Ruth - In memory of friend and
family
Stephens, Dr. E. W.
Stephenson, Mrs. Rosa
Sunland Motel

Talarroja, Ramundo
Tawn Tawn
Teeter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank D.
Temple Beth Israel, Men's Club
Tuckaud, Williams A. Insurance Agency
Thompson, Mrs. Charles
Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. D. H.
Hillary's Stores

Tines Savers Food Stores, Inc.
Todd Insurance Company
Tomeu, Rita
Tomeu, Bebe
Townsend, Dr. and Mrs. Richard
Travelers Motor Lodge
Trevino, Carlos

Uruwi, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin J.
Van Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan
Van Landingham, Mr. and Mrs. E. W.
Valasco, Carlos
Valeg, Calixto Garcia
Vareen, Irene
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post 8181
Vigo, Jose
Villar, Santos
Vincent, Pablo
Violetta's Community Club

Walker, Rosa Lee
Wallie's Pharmacy
Websters, Mrs. Lorraine
Wedgworth Farms, Inc.
Wedgworth, Mr. and Mrs. George
Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. B. G.
White, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C.
White's Radio and T.V.

Wiskinson Cooper Produce, Inc.
William's Funeral Home
Wilson, J. E. and Company
Wilson, John E. and Sons Inc.
Winchester, Dr. and Mrs. James
Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. Emil
Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jr.
Woman's Club of Belle Glade
Wooten, W. G. Sr.

XI Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Xiquig, Delfini

Young, Dave L.

Lumphi Construction Company
Lywicki, Mr. and Mrs. Edward
Lywicki, Mr. and Mrs. Emil

